

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03298 082041Z

70

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-03 INR-10 LAB-01

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00

COA-01 DLOS-03 SWF-01 AGR-03 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-07

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 USIA-04 DRC-01 /072 W

----- 043815

R 082027Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4718

INFO AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3298

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EPAP, EWWT, CA

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT TO LEGISLATE END OF GRAIN STRIKE

REF: OTTAWA 3247

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL GOC INTRODUCED LEGISLATION ON OCT 7 TO END STRIKE LAUNCHED AUG 16 BY SOME 550 GRAIN WORKERS AGAINST FIVE VANCOUVER-BASED GRAIN ELEVATOR COMPANIES. STRIKE FOLLOWED SLOW-DOWN BEGUN LAST SPRING AFTER COMPANIES REJECTED CONCILIATION RECOMMENDATIONS PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION TO COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND EMPLOYER-FINANCED PENSION PLAN. GOVERNMENT BILL CALLS FOR CONCILIATION COMMISSIONER PERRY'S PROPOSALS FOR WAGE INCREASE OF 87 CENTS PER HOUR RETROACTIVE TO DEC 1, 1973 AND 65 CENTS PER HOUR EFFECTIVE DEC 1, 1974 ON PRESENT HOURLY BASE RATE OF C DOLS 4.96, PLUS COST OF LIVING ESCALATOR CLAUSE AND PENSION SCHEME. ESTIMATES ON LABOR COST INCREASES RANGE BETWEEN 42.5 AND 48 PERCENT, WITH ONE COMPANY'S CLAIM RUNNING AS HIGH AS 61 PERCENT.

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2. DURING YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVE PARTY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL VOTE AGAINST BILL ON GROUNDS THAT GOC INTRUDED UNNECESSARILY IN BARGAINING PROCESS BY PUBLICLY ACCEPTING CONCILIATION REPORT AND THAT PAY ADJUSTMENTS ARE INFLATIONARY AND LIKELY TO TRIGGER SIMILAR DEMANDS IN OTHER NEGOTIATIONS. UNION LEADERS ARGUE THAT INCREASES ARE FULLY JUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF SIGNIFICANT WAGE GAP BETWEEN GRAIN WORKERS AND COMPARABLE OCCUPATIONS SUCH AS LONGSHOREMEN.

3. DESPITE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OPPOSITION TO BILL, IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT IT WILL BE PASSED BY LIBERAL MAJORITY WITHIN A WEEK.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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